

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows. A marked-up copy of this claim, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Twice Amended) A gel electrolyte containing at least a gelling agent and an ionically conductive material which is liquid at working temperature, wherein said gelling agent is forming an associated body via intermolecular bonding.

REMARKS

The claims are 1, 2 and 4-7, with claim 1 the sole independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by WO 98/11619 (Green). Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by JP 11-185836 (JP '836). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Green in view of GB 2,212,504 (GB '504).

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent No. 5,470,667 (Williams) in view of Green. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Makoto Ue et al., "A New Gelling Agent and Its Application as a Solid Electrolyte for Lithium Batteries," 38(9) Electrochimica Acta 1301-1302 (1993) (Ue) in view of Green. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.